



**THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.**  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

**FRED LEAF**  
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
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July 22, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.   
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **CLOSURE OF COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF GARDENA'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

On July 19, 2004, the Department of Health Services (DHS) was notified by Community Hospital of Gardena's (CHG) Chief Executive Officer, Raymond Smith, by telephone and written correspondence, of the hospital's Board of Directors decision to close CHG's emergency department. At that time, we were informed by Mr. Smith that it is the hospital's desire to close the emergency department within twenty-four hours due to financial reasons. We have requested that CHG maintain its emergency department until July 26, 2004 in order to notify affected 911 provider agencies and base hospitals in an orderly manner and to prevent a negative impact with an incorrect transport.

As you are aware, the Health and Safety Code requires hospitals to provide such closure notice as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days, of a planned intention to reduce or eliminate emergency services. However, a hospital is not subject to this requirement if the State DHS determines that the use of resources to keep the emergency center open substantially threatens the stability of the hospital. As such, State DHS authorized the closure of CHG's emergency department as a result of its financial insolvency. Subsequently, County Counsel has advised the EMS Agency that the associated Public Hearing and EMS Impact Evaluation are not required.

Nevertheless, the EMS Agency has prepared a limited evaluation (Attachment I) of the impact that closure of CHG's emergency department will have on the EMS system. We anticipate that the closure will have a negative impact on the surrounding hospitals by increasing the number of visits to the emergency departments, in particular Memorial Hospital of Gardena (MHG).

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
July 22, 2004  
Page 2

Although, CHG has been an acute care facility for many years, the hospital began providing emergency services in January 27, 2003 with five (5) emergency treatment stations. 911 patients transported to CHG are from incident locations within a defined service area assigned to Memorial Hospital of Gardena. Prior to CHG opening its emergency department, 911 patients within the defined service area were all transported MHG.

We have contacted the Chief Executive Officer of MHG, Steve Popkins, and he has indicated that MHG would be able to accommodate the increased emergency department volume upon CHG's closure. Enclosed (Attachment II) is the notification provided to the affected 911 provider agencies and base hospitals.

The EMS Agency does not anticipate that the closure of CHG will negatively impact 911 provider agencies' operations by increasing the length of time to transport patients to MHG, since the two hospitals are located less than half a mile from each other. However, provider agencies' operations and patient care may be negatively impacted by increasing the length of time that EMS personnel are held at busy emergency departments, waiting for available staff to transfer care.

The hospital has been advised to post appropriate notices to ensure that all reasonable efforts are being taken to properly inform the public. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above number or Carol Meyer, Director of the EMS Agency, at (323) 890-7545.

TLG:rt

#### Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Director, EMS Agency  
EMS Commission

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF GARDENA  
Surrounding Facility Volume Report

Hospitals within the Service Area of Memorial Hospital of Gardena	Emergency Department (ED) Beds (Treatment Bays)	% of Treatment Bays in the Service Area	9-1-1 Transports in 2003	% of 9-1-1 Transports in the Service Area	Averaged Monthly ED Visits	Reported 2003 Annual ED Visits	% of ED visits in the Service Area	Number of Patients Seen per Treatment Bay (Annual)
Community Hospital of Gardena	5	38%	1194	25%	383	4596	21%	919
Memorial Hospital of Gardena	8	62%	3540	75%	1410	16916	79%	2115
Totals	13		4734		1793	21512		1655

<u>CONCLUSIONS:</u>		
Number of treatment bays if Community Hospital of Gardena's ED closes	8	38% decrease
Current number of patients per treatment bay	1655	
Estimated increase in patients per treatment bay if Community Hospital of Gardena's ED closes	2689	63% increase

With the exception of 9-1-1 data, all other numbers are self-reported by the hospitals.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY**

5555 Ferguson Drive, Suite 220  
Commerce, CA 90022  
(323) 890-7500

*Carol Meyer*  
DIRECTOR

*William J. Koenig, M.D., FACEP*  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

July 20, 2004

**VIA FAX  
VIA REDDINET**

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** Carol (Gunter) Meyer  
Director, EMS Agency

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF GARDENA (CHG)  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CLOSURE**

Community Hospital of Gardena (CHG) located at 1246 West 155<sup>th</sup> Street, Gardena, California 90247, has notified the Emergency Medical Services Agency that it will be closing its Emergency Department. To ensure a smooth transition, effective **July 26, 2004, at 7:00 am**, CHG will no longer be an approved 9-1-1 receiving facility. All 9-1-1 transports to CHG's Emergency Department are to be discontinued at that time.

CHG is located in Memorial Hospital of Gardena's (MHG) defined service area; therefore patients from an incident location within the service area should be transported to MHG.

Please ensure that all your personnel are informed of this change and are familiar with destination policies. If you have any questions, contact Richard Tadeo, Chief of Prehospital Care Operations, at (323) 890-7576.

CM:rt  
07:17

- c. Director and Chief Medical Officer, DHS  
Medical Director, EMS Agency  
Emergency Medical Services Commission  
Senior Program Head, TEMIS  
Operations Manager, Medical Alert Center  
Hospital Association of Southern California  
Health Facilities Division

CHG ED Closure

July 20, 2004

Page 2

Distribution:

CEO, Community Hospital of Gardena

CEO, Memorial Hospital of Gardena

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Paramedic Coordinator, Compton Fire Department

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